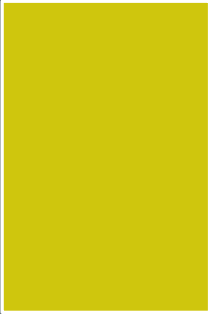


Wisconsin Women's Council

New Board Member
Orientation
2013

Office & Staff

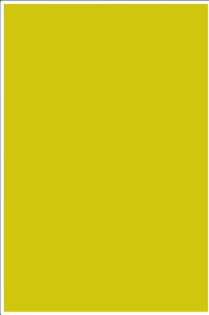
Stop by the office
and visit anytime!



Office location:
Dept. of Administration Bldg.
101 East Wilson, 9th fl
Madison, WI 53703
Office Hours: 8am to 4:30 pm



Christine Lidbury
Executive Director
608-266-2219
christine.lidbury@wi.gov



The Council operates with
one full-time staff person.

Board Meetings



The meeting schedule and location is set by the Board. Currently the Board meets quarterly at the State Capitol in Madison.

2013 Upcoming Meetings

June 10, 2013

September 9, 2013

November 18, 2013

Meetings are held from noon to 1:30 pm at the State Capitol. Lunch is provided.

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History

How the Women's Council came to be ...

Wisconsin's Governor's Commission on the Status of Women (1964-1979)

- Following President Kennedy's Commission on the Status of Women, Governor John Reynolds was approached by a group of Wisconsin women to create a state commission.
- In 1964, the 34-member citizens commission – WI Commission on the Status of Women (WCSW) – was charged with investigating the conditions and quality of life of Wisconsin women and to work toward substantive changes to improve their status and ability to participate in society.
- Kay Clarenbach chaired the commission through its existence; Norma Briggs served as Executive Director.
- WCSW's first report, Wisconsin Women (1965), included recommendations on education, family, employment, citizen participation and legal rights. WCSW also issued publications on women and the law, marital property, credit, careers and a directory of women's organizations and resources.
- In 1979, Governor Dreyfus abolished the commission.

Kathryn (Kay) Clarenbach

“Kay Clarenbach has succeeded in becoming one of the country’s top feminists without losing her femininity.” Milwaukee Sentinel, Feb 6, 1969.

In the early 1960s, Kay Clarenbach (UW-Extension and UW-Madison) had the idea for a statewide Governor's Commission on the Status of Women. At Governor Reynolds (1963-1965) request, Kay chaired the planning conference and later served as the Chair throughout the Commission's life.



In 1966, Kay became one of the founders of the National Organization for Women (NOW) – participating in the first meeting which was held in Betty Friedan's hotel room – and was elected as its first Board Chair.

While leading the charge for the creation of the Wisconsin Women's Council, she also founded the National Women's Political Caucus and the Wisconsin Women's Network.



The Wisconsin Women's Council was established by Gov. Tony Earl through Executive Order 5, issued February 1, 1983 and established in statute in 1983 Wisconsin Act 27.

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Mission and Board

Statutory provisions and policy that govern the Council

Statutory Mission

Wisconsin Statutes
§ 16.01



In replacing a Governor's Commission, the new Women's Council designed to be statutory and involved the Governor and the Legislature.

To enhance the ability of all Wisconsin women to participate fully and equally in all aspects of life.

Work closely with public, private and not-for-profit groups to carry out this mission.

The Women's Council Shall ...

Provisions in the
Women's Council's
Authorizing Statute

Identify the barriers that prevent women in this state from participating fully and equally in all aspects of life

Work closely with all state agencies, including the UW and technical college systems with the private sector and with groups concerned with women's issues to **develop long-term solutions** to women's economic and social inequality.

Disseminate information on the status of women in this state.

Conduct statewide hearings on issues of concern to women.

Review, monitor and advise all state agencies regarding the impact upon women of current and emerging state policies, procedures, practices, laws and administrative rules

Recommend changes to the public and private sectors and **initiate legislation** to further women's economic and social equality and improve this state's tax base and economy.

Board Membership

Wisconsin Statutes
§ 15.107



Governor

Governor's Designee
Chair
5 Public Members



Senate Pres. & Maj. Leader

Two Senate Members
Two Public Members



Assembly Speaker

Two Assembly Members
Two Public Members

Members serve 2-year staggered terms, except Designee (4-yr term). Members may continue to serve beyond the term of their appointment until their position is reappointed or they resign.



Governor

Mary Jo Baas, Chair
Michelle Mettner, Gov. Designee
Nicky Bowman
Patty Cadorin
Karen Katz
Jessie Nicholson
vacancy



Assembly Speaker

Representative Sandy Pasch
vacancy (State Representative)
Heidi Green
Kim Nickel



Senate Majority Leader & President

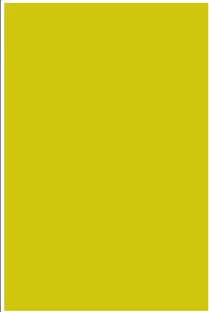
Senator Jennifer Shilling
Senator Dave Hansen
Heather Smith
vacancy

Board Membership

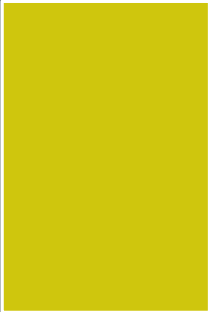
Agency policy
governing Board
Membership



Active participation on the Council is required of all members.



A quorum for conducting official business is eight (8) members. In the absence of a quorum, advisory votes may be solicited. Staff or others attending on behalf of a member do not count toward a quorum.



Members who cannot be physically present at a meeting may participate and vote by telephone.

Board Membership

Agency policy
governing Board
Membership



No Council member may speak for the Council unless presenting a position officially adopted by the body.



When not officially representing the Council, members may mention their affiliation but must note that any views or comments are individual and not official.



Council letterhead may only be used by members for communications related to positions officially adopted by the body. Clear with Chair.

Board Membership

Agency policy
governing Board
Membership



As a Board Member you are a **STATE PUBLIC OFFICIAL**. Specific rules apply to your conduct. Please review the Official Guidelines linked below.

[GAB 12-01](#)

Standards of Conduct

[GAB 12-16](#)

Receipt of Food, Drink, etc.

[GAB 12-32](#)

Conflicts of Interest

For any questions, contact:

**Wisconsin Government
Accountability Board
Ethics Division
608-267-0647**

Board Membership

Role of the Chair & Vice Chair



The Chair is appointed by the Governor, the Vice Chair is elected by the Council.



The Vice-Chair fills in for the Chair, as needed, to run meetings and represent the Council.



The Chair serves as an ex-officio member of all committees.



Assist in the development of agendas for Council meetings – see “Council Meetings” page.



Assist the Executive Director and other Members with Council agenda and goal-setting.

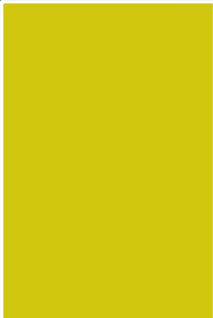


Provide assistance to the Executive Director as needed.

Council Meetings



The Chair sets the agenda in consultation with the Executive Director.



Members are invited to propose agenda items. Items should be submitted by email to the Exec. Director at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting date.



Women's Council meetings are Public Meetings subject to the Open Meetings Act.

Council Meetings

Open Meetings Law

The open meetings law requires that “all meetings of all state and local governmental bodies shall be publicly held in places reasonably accessible to members of the public and shall be open to all citizens at all times unless otherwise expressly provided by law.” Wis. Stat. § 19.81(2). There is a presumption that meetings of governmental bodies must be held in open session.



- (1) give advance public notice of each of meetings, and
- (2) conduct all business in open session (some specific exemptions allowing closed session).

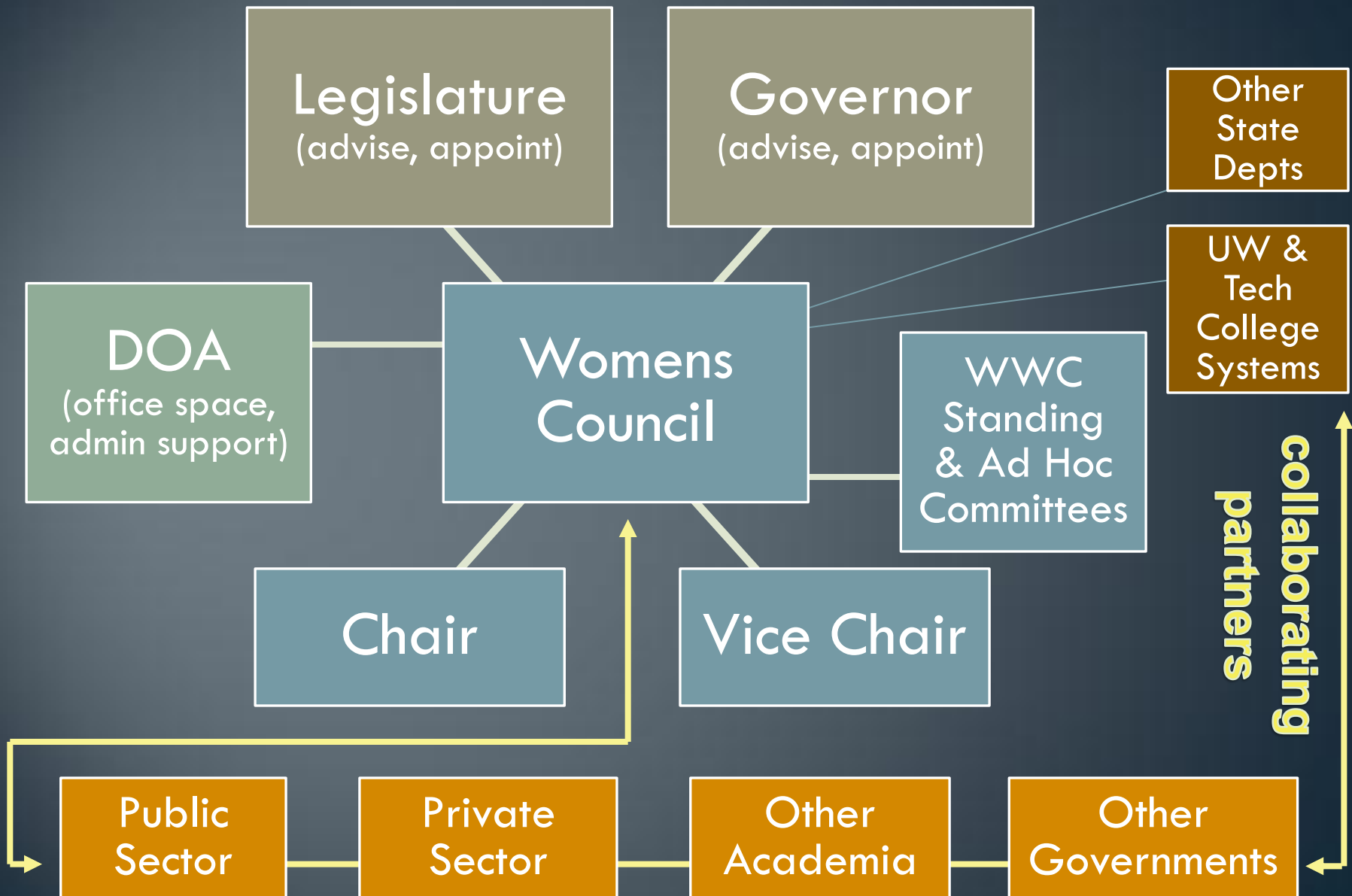


Violation: “Walking Quorum” - a series of gatherings among smaller groups of Board Members, who agree, tacitly or explicitly, to act uniformly in numbers to reach a quorum.



Violation: Out-of-meeting communications among a quorum of Board Members, such as by mail or telephone, outside of a publicly noticed meeting. Don't “REPLY ALL!”

Women's Council Partners Flow Chart



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Program

The Council's agenda and priority work areas

Priority Issue Areas

Financial Literacy
Women's Business Ownership
Governor's Trailblazer Awards
Publications & Outreach
Maintain Visibility & Partnerships

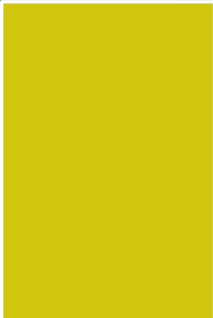
For information on past programs and activities, see the Council's Biennial Reports, which are provided on the web site under the links "About" and then "Biennial Reports".

Web site & Social Media

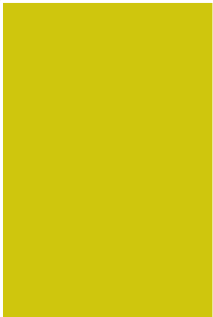


www.womenscouncil.wi.gov

e-Newsletter (bi-weekly)
1 200 subscribers, plus Legislature
Facebook Page



Board Members are listed on the web site under “ABOUT” and for each include a photo, bio and term on the Council.



Board Members are welcome to suggest content for the web site and social media. Concerns about content should be sent to the Exec. Director or Chair.

Historical List of Priority Work Areas

(select projects since 2007)

1. Economic Self-Sufficiency

- Women & Poverty Report
- Girls & STEM initiatives / LEAP
- Annual wage gap/econ reports
- Displaced homemakers grants
- MATC Women in Trades
- WI DCF Poverty Summit

2. Women's business ownership

- Trailblazer Awards
- WBE Fact Sheets
- WBE Forums
- Roundtables w/ Lt. Gov
- Planning for Governor's Small Business Summit

3. Safety from Violence

- Lobbied on related legislation
- WCADV conferences

4. Women's mental health issues & stigma reduction

- Lt. Governor's Task Force
- Lobbied on MH parity bill

5. Access to Afford. Quality Child Care

- Strongest Links Conf. w/ DCF
- Lobbied YoungStar program

6. Financial Literacy

- Online Checklist *in progress
- Financial Tips Brochure
- Fraud Awareness Programs
- Scholarship sponsorships

QUESTIONS? If you have questions or if you would like me to review this materials with you, please contact me at 608-266-2219 or christine.lidbury@wi.gov.